

Appl. No. 10/654,789
Amdt. Dated June 4, 2004
Reply to Office action of May 28, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A boot for use on a vehicle joint, said boot comprising:
a body;
a first end of said body having a tubular shape; and
a second end of said body having a sealing area, said sealing area having at least sealing bead located on an end surface of said sealing area for sealing the joint.
2. (Original) The boot of claim 1 wherein said sealing area having a second sealing bead.
3. Canceled
4. (Currently Amended) The boot of claim [[3]] 1 wherein said second sealing bead is located approximately 90° from said sealing bead.
5. (Original) The boot of claim 1 further including an annular channel on an inside surface of said sealing area.
6. (Original) The boot of claim 1 wherein the boot is made of a flexible material.
7. (Original) The boot of claim 6 wherein said flexible material is a thermoplastic.

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8. (Currently Amended) A constant velocity joint assembly for a vehicle, said assembly comprising:

a shaft;

a first joint part connected to said shaft;

a second joint part cooperable with said first joint part to transmit torque therebetween;

a boot having a first end contacting said shaft and a second end associated with said second joint part, said second end having a sealing area including at least one sealing bead located on an end surface of said sealing area; and

a boot cover having a first end affixable to said second joint part and a second end affixable to said second end of said boot.

9. (Original) The assembly of claim 8 wherein said boot cover is affixable to said second end of said boot by a crimping operation on said at least one sealing bead.

10. (Original) The assembly of claim 8 wherein said sealing area of said second end of said boot having a second sealing bead.

11. Canceled

12. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 10 wherein said second sealing bead is located approximately 90° from said sealing bead.

13. (Original) The assembly of claim 12 further including an annular channel on an inside surface of said sealing area.

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14. (Currently Amended) A joint assembly, said assembly including:
- a shaft;
 - a first joint part connected to said shaft;
 - a second joint part cooperable with said first joint part to transmit torque therebetween;
 - a boot having a first end contacting said shaft and a second end associated with said second joint part, said second end having a sealing area including a plurality of sealing beads wherein at least one of said plurality of sealing beads is located on an end surface of said sealing area; and
 - a boot cover having a first end and a second end, said first end of said boot cover affixable to said second joint part and said second end of said boot cover affixable to said second end of said boot by a crimping operation between said plurality of sealing ~~[[boots]]~~ beads and said second end of said boot cover.
15. Canceled
16. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 14 wherein a second sealing bead of said plurality of sealing beads is located approximately 90° from said one of plurality of said sealing beads.
17. (Original) The assembly of claim 16 further including an annular channel on an inside surface of said sealing area.
18. (Currently Amended) A boot for use between a shaft and a joint, said boot comprising:
- a first end contacting the shaft; and
 - a second end having a sealing area, said sealing area having a plurality of sealing beads wherein one of said sealing beads is located on an end surface of said sealing area, said second end be affixable to the joint by performing a crimping operation between said sealing beads and the joint.

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19. (Currently Amended) A method for connecting a first and second joint part of a constant velocity joint, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a boot having a first end affixable to a shaft and a second end associated with said second joint part, said second end having a sealing area including at least one sealing bead located on an end surface of said sealing area;

providing a boot cover having a first end and a second end;

affixing said first end of said boot cover to said second joint part;

and

affixing said second end of said boot cover to said second end of said boot by performing a crimping operation on the at least one sealing bead.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein said sealing area of said second end of said boot having a first and second sealing bead.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for connecting first and second joint parts of a constant velocity joint, said method including the steps of:

providing a boot having a first end affixable to a shaft and a second end associated with the second joint part, said second end having a sealing area including a plurality of sealing beads wherein at least one of said sealing beads is located on an end surface of said sealing area;

providing a boot cover having a first end and a second end;

affixing said first end of said boot cover to the second joint part;

and

affixing said second end of said boot cover to said second end of said boot by performing a crimping operation on said plurality of sealing beads.